

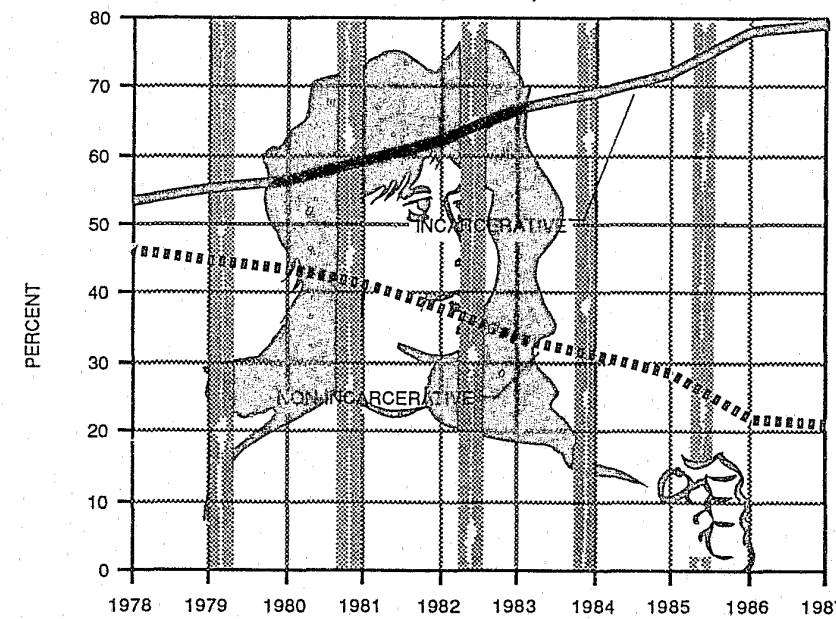
WOMEN IN CRIME: The Sentencing of Female Defendants

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Between 1978 and 1987, over two million adult felony arrests receiving a final disposition were reported to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics' Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system. Approximately 15 percent were dispositions for female defendants. Over half of those female offenders were convicted and sentenced by California courts. "WOMEN IN CRIME: The Sentencing of Female Defendants" examines the sentencing trends of female adults sentenced from 1978 to 1987.

INCARCERATIVE VS. NON-INCARCERATIVE
SENTENCES OF ADULT FEMALE FELONY
ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1978-1987^a



^a1987 proportions are based on preliminary data.

Note: Incarcerative sentences include prison, Youth Authority, probation with jail, jail, and California Rehabilitation Center.

Non-incarcerative sentences include straight probation, fine, and other (no sentence given or sentence suspended).

From 1978 to 1987 the proportion of females receiving incarcerative type sentences increased from 53.8 to 79.2 percent (up 25.4 percentage points).

Conversely, the proportion of females receiving non-incarcerative type sentences decreased from 46.2 to 20.8 percent (down 25.4 percentage points).

Without considering any contributing factors such as prior record, criminal status, or severity of the crime, more punitive or institutional-oriented sentences are being given to female defendants as the decade of the eighties progresses.





Note: This Outlook uses percents to describe statewide female sentencing trends because actual numbers do not represent the total number of adult felony arrest dispositions made during each year. It is estimated that reports for approximately 70 percent of all adult felony arrest dispositions were received. In spite of this underreporting, these final dispositions generally describe statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system.


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OUTLOOK


From 1978 to 1987 the proportion of adult females given the sentence of:


 Prison - increased from 3.4 to 7.5 percent, an increase of 4.1 percentage points.

 Probation with jail - increased from 40.5 to 62.6 percent, an increase of 22.1 percentage points.

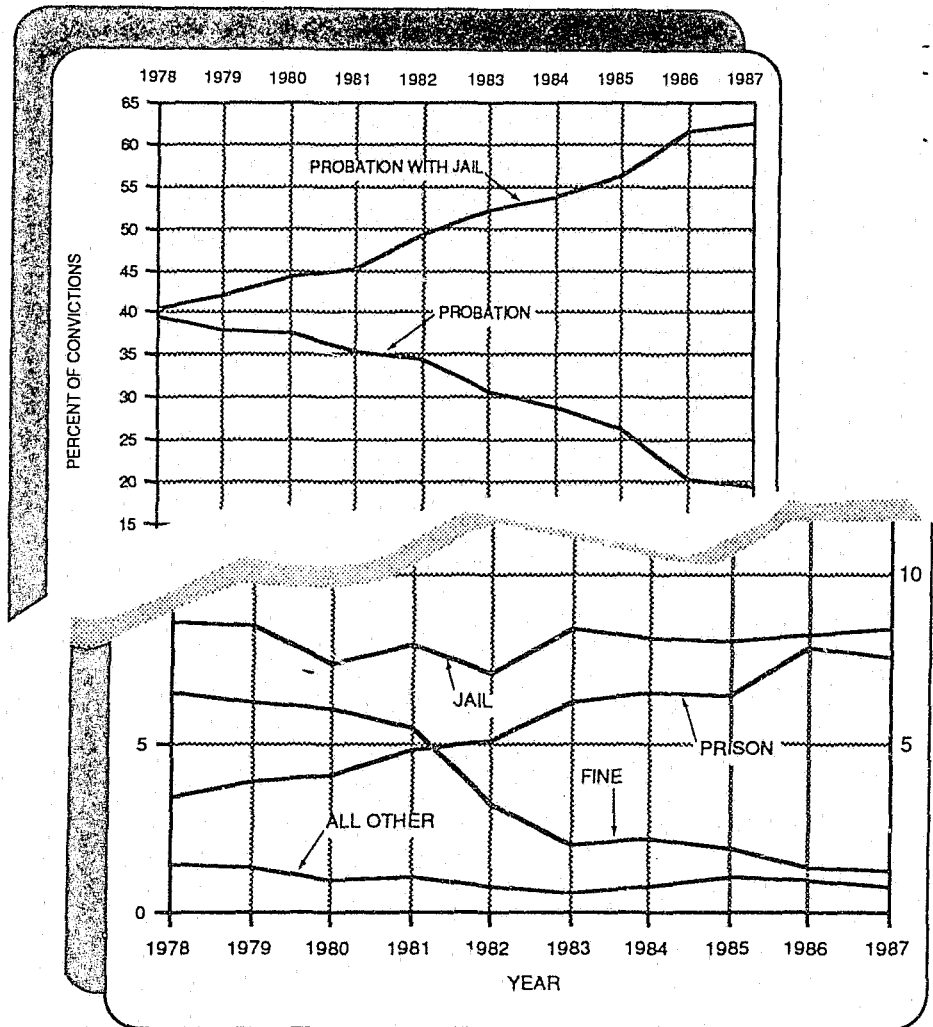
 Jail - remained fairly constant, but decreased slightly from 8.6 to 8.4 percent.

 Probation - decreased from 39.6 to 19.4 percent, a decrease of 20.2 percentage points.

 Fine - decreased from 6.5 to 1.2 percent, a decrease of 5.3 percentage points.

 "All other" - remained fairly constant but did decrease from 1.4 to .8 percent.

ADULT FEMALE FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1978-1987^a By Type of Sentence

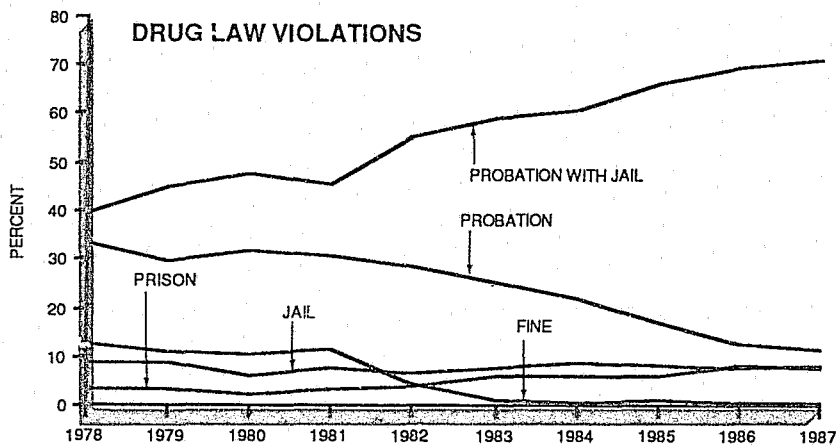
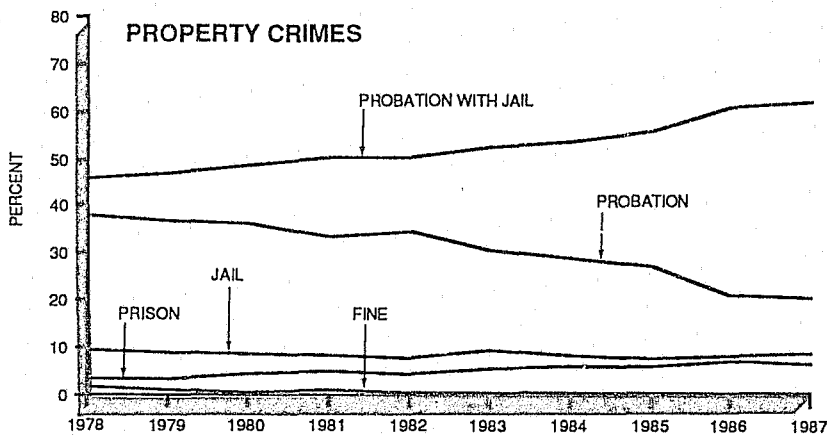
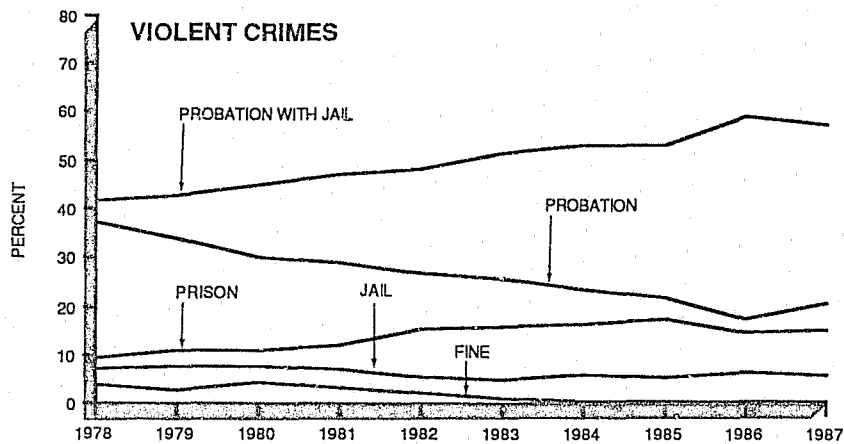


^a1987 proportions are based on preliminary data.



From 1978 to 1987 the proportion of females sentenced to prison more than doubled. During the same period, probation with jail sentences increased by 22.1 percentage points while the proportion of straight probation sentences were cut in half. These changes reflect a more punitive shift in the criminal justice system's sentencing of female defendants.

**ADULT FEMALE FELONY
ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1978-1987^a**
Selected Offense Categories By Type of Sentence



An examination of the sentences for convictions of violent crimes, property crimes, and drug law violations from 1978 to 1987 shows that:

Regardless of offense category, the same general sentencing trends occurred.

In each offense category, the largest proportion of females convicted are sentenced to probation with jail.

For each offense category, probation with jail sentences increased the most. Conversely, the greatest decrease was found in straight probation sentences.

The greatest increase in prison sentences was found in the violent crime category (up 5.9 percentage points).

The largest increase in incarcerative sentences was found in the drug law violations category (up 34.8 percentage points).



^a1987 proportions are based on preliminary data.

Notes: "All other" sentences which include Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and other (no sentence given and sentence suspended) account for less than two percent of the total sentences and are not graphed.



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FEMALE ADULT FELONY ARREST CONVICTIONS, 1978-1987
 By Type of Sentence

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987 ^a
Convictions	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prison	3.4	3.9	4.1	4.8	5.1	6.2	6.5	6.4	7.8	7.5
Probation	39.6	38.0	37.5	35.4	34.5	30.8	28.8	26.4	20.3	19.4
Probation with jail	40.5	42.1	44.2	45.3	49.2	52.0	53.7	56.2	61.4	62.6
Jail	8.6	8.5	7.4	7.9	7.1	8.4	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.4
Fine	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.5	3.2	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.3	1.2
All other	1.4	1.3	.9	1.0	.8	.6	.8	1.0	.9	.8
Violent crimes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prison	9.3	11.2	11.2	12.3	15.4	16.0	16.3	17.4	14.9	15.2
Probation	37.1	33.7	30.3	28.9	26.7	25.5	23.5	22.1	17.8	20.6
Probation with jail	41.4	42.9	45.1	47.0	48.4	51.7	53.1	53.4	59.1	57.4
Jail	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.0	5.5	5.0	5.9	5.7	6.8	5.8
Fine	3.6	2.9	4.5	3.5	2.3	.9	.7	.8	.8	.4
All other	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.7	.9	.5	.6	.5	.6
Property crimes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prison	3.1	3.3	4.2	4.8	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.9	7.2	6.9
Probation	37.9	37.0	36.2	33.5	34.7	30.6	29.3	27.6	21.4	20.5
Probation with jail	45.9	46.8	48.9	50.3	50.6	52.7	53.9	56.1	61.0	62.3
Jail	9.4	9.1	8.0	8.2	7.6	9.3	8.4	8.0	8.6	8.9
Fine	2.3	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.1	.7
All other	1.4	1.0	.7	1.0	.6	.5	.7	.8	.7	.8
Drug law violations	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prison	3.5	3.2	2.4	3.3	4.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	8.4	7.5
Probation	33.2	29.6	32.0	30.9	28.7	25.2	22.1	16.9	12.4	11.6
Probation with jail	39.7	44.9	47.6	45.5	55.4	59.1	61.0	66.4	69.5	71.1
Jail	8.7	8.6	6.3	7.8	6.4	7.4	8.5	8.0	7.7	8.1
Fine	12.7	11.1	10.4	11.7	4.4	1.2	.8	1.0	.6	.7
All other	2.3	2.6	1.4	.8	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.4	.9

^a1987 proportions are based on preliminary data.
 Notes: Convicted offense data include both misdemeanors and felonies.
 "All other" sentences include no sentence given and sentence suspended.